AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of performing cascaded replication comprising:

asynchronously replicating <u>first</u> data to be written to a data volume of a first node to a data volume of a second node<u>, wherein the first data is replicated to the data volume of the second node in an order in which the first data is to be written to the data volume of the first node</u>; and

replicating <u>second</u> data to be written to said data volume of said second node to a data volume of a third node, wherein[[,]] ~~said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises periodically replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node~~ <u>the second data is not replicated to the data volume of the third node in an order in which the second data is to be written to the data volume of the second node</u>.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Previously Presented) A method of performing cascaded replication comprising:

asynchronously replicating data to be written to a data volume of a first node to a data volume of a second node; and

replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node to a data volume of a third node,

wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises asynchronously replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein,

said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node

comprises, asynchronously replicating data to be written to a data volume of a

primary node to a data volume of an intermediate node; and

said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second

node comprises, asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume

of said intermediate node to a data volume of a secondary node.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said asynchronously replicating

data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node comprises asynchronously

replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of

each of a plurality of secondary nodes.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein,

said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node

comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of

said first node to said data volume of said second node using a first data link

coupled between said first node and said second node;

said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second

node comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume

of said second node to said data volume of said third node using a second data

link coupled between said second node and said third node; and

said first data link has a higher bandwidth than said second data link.

8.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first device for asynchronously replicating <u>first</u> data to be written to a data volume of a

first node to a data volume of a second node<u>, wherein the first device is</u>

<u>configured to asynchronously replicate the first data to the data volume of the</u>

<u>second node in an order in which the first data is to be written to the data volume</u>

<u>of the first node</u>; and

a second device for replicating <u>second</u> data to be written to said data volume of said

second node to a data volume of a third node, wherein[[,]] ~~said second device for~~

~~replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises a~~

~~device for periodically replicating said data to be written to said data volume of~~

~~said second node to said data volume of said third node~~ <u>the second device is not</u>

<u>configured to replicate the second data to the data volume of the third node in an</u>

<u>order in which the second data is to be written to the data volume of the second</u>

<u>node</u>.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus configured to perform cascaded replication
comprising:

a first device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to a data volume of a first

node to a data volume of a second node; and

a second device for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node

to a data volume of a third node, wherein said second device for replicating data

to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises a device for

asynchronously replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said

second node to said data volume of said third node.

11.   (Cancelled)

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12.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein,

said first device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of

said first node comprises,

a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to a data volume of a

primary node to a data volume of an intermediate node; and

said second device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume

of said second node comprises,

a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of

said intermediate node to a data volume of a secondary node.

13.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node comprises a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of each of a plurality of secondary nodes.

14.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein,

said first device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of

said first node comprise a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written

to said data volume of said first node to said data volume of said second node

using a first data link coupled between said first node and said second node;

said means for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said

second node comprises a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written

to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node

using a second data link coupled between said second node and said third node;

and

said first data link has a higher bandwidth than said second data link.

15.   (Currently Amended) A set of machine-readable mediums collectively having a plurality of instructions executable by two or more machines, wherein said plurality of instructions when executed cause said two or more machines to perform a method comprising:

> asynchronously replicating <u>first</u> data to be written to a data volume of a first node to a data volume of a second node<u>, wherein the first data is asynchronously replicated to the data volume of the second node in an order in which the first data is to be written to the data volume of the first node</u>; and

> replicating <u>second</u> data to be written to said data volume of said second node to a data volume of a third node, wherein[[,]] ~~said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises periodically replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node~~ <u>the second data is not replicated to the data volume of the third node in an order in which the second data is to be written to the data volume of the second node</u>.

16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Previously Presented) A set of machine-readable mediums collectively having a plurality of instructions executable by two or more machines, wherein said plurality of instructions when executed cause said two or more machines to perform a method comprising:

> asynchronously replicating data to be written to a data volume of a first node to a data volume of a second node; and

> replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node to a data volume of a third node,

> wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises asynchronously replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node.

18.   (Cancelled)

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19.   (Previously Presented) The set of machine-readable mediums of claim 17, wherein,

said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node

comprises,

replicating data to be written to a data volume of a primary node to a data volume

of an intermediate node; and

said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second

node comprises,

asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said

intermediate node to a data volume of a secondary node.

20.   (Previously Presented) The set of machine-readable mediums of claim 19, wherein said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of each of a plurality of secondary nodes.

21.   (Previously Presented) The set of machine-readable mediums of claim 17, wherein,

said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node

comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of

said first node to said data volume of said second node using a first data link

coupled between said first node and said second node;

said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second

node comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume

of said second node to said data volume of said third node using a second data

link coupled between said second node and said third node; and

said first data link has a higher bandwidth than said second data link.

22.-25 (Cancelled)